
By: **Senators Gladden and Garagiola**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2004
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Laptop Computer Pilot Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Laptop Computer Pilot Program in the State
4 Department of Education; stating the purpose of the Pilot Program; limiting the
5 application of this Act to certain counties; requiring the Pilot Program to provide
6 a laptop computer to certain students; requiring the State Board of Education to
7 establish certain eligibility and reporting criteria; requiring certain county
8 Boards of Education to select a school to participate in the Pilot Program based
9 on certain criteria; providing that certain funding for the Pilot Program may not
10 supplant certain other existing funding; requiring a participating school to
11 submit certain reports to the State Board; requiring the State Board to submit
12 certain reports to the Governor and General Assembly; providing that the
13 funding for the Pilot Program shall be include in a certain budget; providing for
14 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Laptop Computer Pilot
15 Program.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) There is a Laptop Computer Pilot Program in the State Department of
19 Education.

20 (b) The purpose of the Pilot Program is to achieve one-to-one access to
21 wireless technology for kindergarten through grade 12 students through State and
22 local public-private partnerships.

23 (c) The Department shall work in partnership with the Baltimore City Board
24 of School Commissioners and the Montgomery County Board of Education to provide
25 a laptop computer to every 6th grader in one school in both districts.

26 (d) The State Board of Education shall establish:

27 (1) eligibility criteria under which a county board may select
28 participating schools; and

1 (2) criteria that a participating school must use to evaluate the Pilot
2 Program in reports submitted to the Department under this section.

3 (e) The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and the Montgomery
4 County Board of Education shall select one school in their respective jurisdictions to
5 participate in the Pilot Program based on eligibility criteria established by the State
6 Board.

7 (f) Appropriations made under this section for laptop computers may not be
8 used to supplant the existing State share of basic current expenses under § 5-202 of
9 the Education Article.

10 (g) A selected school shall submit to the State Board reports evaluating, under
11 criteria established by the State Board, the status of the Pilot Program by June 30,
12 2005, and June 30, 2006.

13 (h) The State Board shall submit reports evaluating the Pilot Program to the
14 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
15 General Assembly, on or before September 1, 2005, and September 1, 2006.

16 (i) Funding for this Pilot Program shall be included in the Department's
17 annual budget.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
19 effect July 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 3 months and,
20 at the end of September 30, 2006, with no further action required by the General
21 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.